

1 A. Just -- I mean, basically it was in
2 attitude. I mean, it was just -- everything was
3 gloom and doom and she was overworked and couldn't
4 get her work done and...

5 **Q. Was she overworked?**

6 A. Was she overworked? I thought possibly
7 at the time that she was, but I don't believe that
8 now.

9 **Q. Why did you think so at the time?**

10 A. Because I -- the only thing I had to
11 base that on was what she was telling me.

12 **Q. And why do you -- do you not think that**
13 **now?**

14 A. Because since she's been replaced, the
15 -- the two people have been in there -- one was in
16 there on an interim basis till we hired someone
17 full time -- I mean, it wasn't -- they weren't in
18 there three weeks and they were telling me that
19 they needed something to do because they were
20 bored.

21 **Q. Who is there now?**

22 A. Joanna Dubose is in there now.

23 **Q. Did Joanna Dubose work for the town**
24 **before that?**

25 A. No.

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And when was it done?

3 A. The day of the week?

4 Q. Yes. The --

5 A. You know, I can't remember. Now it's
6 done on Thursdays. I think -- I think that it was
7 done on Thursdays then as well. Some days it would
8 vary though. She would come in early and do those
9 duties.

10 Q. Prior to this -- to her cleaning the
11 offices was it done by an employee or by a service?

12 A. Well, it -- no. It -- when I first
13 came there, it was done by an employee from up
14 front, that worked up front for town hall side.
15 They had had an overtime arrangement or something,
16 but it was -- it wasn't a very thorough cleaning.
17 Let's put it that way.

18 And -- and then we had had somebody
19 else coming in that was doing it for a while, and
20 then it kind of stopped because they didn't -- I
21 didn't think we were getting the bang for our buck
22 at that time, and then I think there was a period
23 of time where basically the officers were doing it,
24 which they're doing now with the assistance of
25 general services comes in once a week, but we

1 handle all our own vacuuming and that kind of stuff
2 now.

3 Q. Who does that vacuuming now?

4 A. The officers do. I've done it.
5 Captain's done it. Just whenever it gathers up or
6 piles up we'll...

7 Q. And when was this taken away from her?

8 A. I can't recall the -- the date, but
9 basically we -- we had tightened up on our
10 spending, and that was one of the things that we
11 could have done without that we continue to do
12 without to this day.

13 Q. And why was she told it was taken away
14 from her?

15 A. I would assume she was told that it was
16 taken away 'cause we couldn't afford to do it
17 anymore and that we were trying to save every
18 dollar that we could.

19 Q. Was she paid out of drug fund money?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. So the drug fund couldn't afford that
22 anymore?

23 A. Not in my opinion, no. Not at that
24 time.

25 Q. Was her payment -- the payment of her

1 salary, was that one of the things that was found
2 on the audit to be improper?

3 A. No.

4 Q. So her payment of -- the cleaning
5 offices from the drug fund was a proper
6 expenditure?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And you just felt that the drug fund
9 couldn't afford it anymore?

10 A. We had had -- yeah, yeah. Exactly.

11 Q. Tell me. We had had what?

12 A. I mean, yeah. Exactly.

13 Q. Were you under any investigation at
14 that time by DOJ?

15 A. I've never been under investigation by
16 DOJ, so the answer is no.

17 Q. I understand. Was there any
18 question --

19 A. No.

20 Q. -- at that time?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. Was the taking away -- do you
23 know that the taking away of the cleaning services
24 was after the report that she made concerning
25 Mr. McIntosh, Officer McIntosh?

1 Q. Did you ever ask her if she cooked in
2 the nude?

3 A. I couldn't imagine a context that she
4 and I would have ever had a conversation like that,
5 so I would say no.

6 Q. Did you ever have any conversation with
7 her of -- that was sexual in nature?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Were you ever aware of any
10 conversations by any of your officers with
11 Ms. DeNicola that was sexual in nature?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Were you ever aware of any personal
14 conflict between her and Captain Mador?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Tell me about that.

17 A. Her and the captain were very, very
18 close, and I would -- I viewed it -- I was going to
19 say portray. I viewed it as almost like a
20 mother-son relationship. He and Toni were very
21 close, and I know that she had helped him
22 financially and that -- I think that she had
23 organized a housewarming when he had moved into
24 Ridgeland Lakes, and I know that she had told me
25 that she had given him a credit card at one time

1 as a negative or, you know, somebody worrying about
2 what she was doing or Toni was spending too much
3 time on the phone or Toni was spending too much
4 time, you know, on the computer shopping or
5 whatever, and, you know, that one time it was Toni
6 had talked over 5,000 minutes on her cell phone for
7 the month, that somebody else up front had gotten
8 the phone bill and looked at it and -- you know,
9 and made a -- made an issue of it.

10 **Q. Was it an ever an issue with you?**

11 **A. With the phone?**

12 **Q. Yeah.**

13 **A. I thought that 5,000 minutes was**
14 **excessive, yeah, but I mean, it didn't end up -- in**
15 **the big picture, no, it wasn't a big deal because**
16 **we didn't go over our minutes. We still were**
17 **within our pool. It still was the same fee that it**
18 **was every other month. Now, I spoke to Toni about**
19 **that. It was her and one other employee at the**
20 **same time.**

21 **Q. Who was that?**

22 **A. Tina Orr was the other employee. She**
23 **was at 63, 6400. That's a lot of minutes if you**
24 **want to break that down.**

25 **Q. Was that just one month?**

1 Q. And Toni was moved?

2 A. Yes. I didn't move Toni. That wasn't
3 my decision.

4 Q. Whose decision was it?

5 A. Jason Taylor's, I would assume.

6 Q. Well, how did it get to Jason Taylor?

7 A. Because that morning -- this -- this is
8 the way the whole -- that incident went down. It
9 was -- I don't remember what day of the week it
10 was. I came in that morning, parked in my spot,
11 got out of my car. The captain was sitting on the
12 bench. He and I started talking.

13 The door comes flying open. Toni comes
14 outside and says I don't get paid enough to put up
15 with this fucking shit and starts crying and you've
16 got to do something about it, Richard, and back
17 through the door she went.

18 I looked at Frankie, and I said what is
19 going on? He said I don't know. Let me find out.
20 And then she went back up front, went to town hall,
21 filled out a harassment complaint, and that was the
22 gist of that.

23 Sent them both for polygraphs. On the
24 form, the harassment form, it asks are you willing
25 to take a polygraph, and she had checked that, and

1 think it was going to be a good idea, and then that
2 was the end of it and then she was moved.

3 **Q. Why did you not think it would be a**
4 **good idea?**

5 A. I didn't -- I just didn't think it was
6 going to be a good idea. Just in my personal
7 opinion I didn't think it was going to be a good
8 idea. I didn't want to go back through the hassle
9 of having to -- to find someone to replace her and
10 get them trained and get them up to speed and...

11 **Q. She at the time was the victims'**
12 **advocate still?**

13 A. Correct.

14 **Q. Was she doing a decent job of that?**

15 A. She was doing an okay job. I mean,
16 there had been some bumps in the road, but I mean,
17 nothing -- nothing catastrophic, but I mean, there
18 had definitely been a decline in her attitude.
19 It'd just progressively gotten worse.

20 **Q. But you wanted her to stay in the**
21 **position she was in?**

22 A. Yeah. I felt that that was the best
23 place for her to be.

24 **Q. And you told that to Jason?**

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Were there any conflict issues between
2 her and Penny Daley?

3 A. I think there had been some -- some
4 issues, yes.

5 Q. And you knew that, going over to the
6 water department, she was going to be working under
7 Penny?

8 A. To be honest, I mean, I didn't think
9 that far. I was being more selfish in my thoughts
10 with that of wanting to keep her back on -- on our
11 end for our benefit, but I know -- because at one
12 time I had sensed a friction between her and some
13 of the people up front, but I -- it appeared that
14 all of that had been mended, that -- you know, I
15 think she was going to one of them's house for
16 supper, and her and another one were hanging out a
17 good bit and all and I thought everything was good.

18 Q. Did you relay any of that to Jason?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Was Jason aware of that, or do you
21 know?

22 A. I have no clue.

23 Q. Was her movement by Jason to the water
24 department in response to her filing the harassment
25 complaint against McIntosh?

1 Q. -- duties?

2 A. No, no, not by the mixing of the
3 duties. Just the duties that she had, her regular
4 duties.

5 Q. Did she ever complain to you that she
6 was being asked to do town hall duties --

7 A. I think --

8 Q. -- up there?

9 A. I think that it had been mentioned,
10 yes.

11 Q. Okay. And your response to that was
12 what?

13 A. It's out of my control. I mean, she
14 works for the Town of Ridgeland just like I do, and
15 she happens to be assigned to the Ridgeland Police
16 Department, and if the administrator wants her to
17 do something, then it's -- then it's going to be
18 done.

19 You know, I don't -- it certainly
20 wasn't a -- anything constant. You know, it may be
21 to help out from time to time, but as a matter of
22 routine -- of her routine duties, no, no.

23 Q. Did Jason Taylor come to talk to you
24 about her complaint of a hostile work environment?

25 A. We discussed it. I don't know if he

1 department?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Is it your testimony that you did not
4 ever make any derogatory comment about Jaime Gordon
5 in the presence of Ms. DeNicola?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did Ms. DeNicola make any report to you
8 about damage to her vehicle?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And tell me what that was about.

11 A. Well, there -- I mean, there was a
12 couple of incidents. She had said one time that
13 somebody had spit on it, that she thought somebody
14 had spit on it, that one time after it had just
15 been washed she said that there was a scratch on
16 the -- I think the passenger's door.

17 And she had alleged that someone had
18 let the air out of her tire and caused a blowout or
19 a flat tire or whatever on -- for her. She had to
20 pull over on I-95.

21 And there was nothing -- and which I
22 had Lieutenant Litchfield do an internal on that,
23 and there was nothing, nothing that we could
24 substantiate.

25 Q. Did she tell you who she thought might

1 have done that?

2 A. You know, I can't say definitively. I
3 think maybe that she had insinuated that she
4 thought maybe Dobbs had done it, but I can't...

5 Q. Did you ask Dobbs?

6 A. It was passed on to the lieutenant for
7 an internal investigation, and it was
8 unsubstantiated. We couldn't -- we couldn't find
9 anything. You know, I mean, there was an alleged
10 scratch on the door. I mean, it was -- it was
11 unfounded.

12 Q. Did Toni DeNicola deal with the
13 department of motor vehicles about the cars, the
14 titles to the cars and things like that?

15 A. I would think so. I can't say
16 definitively, but, yeah. I can't see why not, why
17 she wouldn't get tags or whatever.

18 Q. Are you aware of an issue with an F-250
19 that she was asked to get the title change for?

20 A. I was aware of an issue that we had
21 getting a title for an F-250.

22 Q. Tell me about that.

23 A. It was a truck that was seized, and we
24 had to get a title for it.

25 Q. And how was that handled?

1 derogatory. There was nothing to humiliate her.
2 And I can tell you this, that Toni DeNicola never
3 had a bigger advocate at the Town of Ridgeland than
4 Richard Woods, period.

5 Q. Did you have that discussion with Jason
6 Taylor --

7 A. What --

8 Q. -- when he wanted to fire her?

9 A. When he wanted to fire her?

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. What are you talking about? Where are
12 we going with this?

13 Q. Did you have the discussion --

14 A. Are you talking about moving to the
15 water department?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. No, I didn't have that discussion with
18 him. He knew that. I mean, it was known. It was
19 known that I was going to stand up for her. It was
20 known that I wasn't going to cave in on the
21 pressure and on the -- you know, or if somebody
22 insinuated something like the car, that -- you
23 know, why does she have the car, you know, I just
24 wasn't going to -- I was going to run the police
25 department, and that's what I did until I was told